

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 127806

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 PM-07 INR-10 RSC-01 RSR-01 EB-11

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DRAFTED BY EA/ TB: TBLEHA: DME

6/27/73 EXT. 21741

APPROVED BY EA/ TB: JBDEXTER

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R 291405 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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STADIS////////////////

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, BGEN, TH

SUBJ: KRA CANAL STUDY REVIEW

1. ARTHUR DOWNEY, WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE OF THAI PRIME MOVER (K. Y. CHOW) BEHIND PROPOSAL TO DIG CANAL ACROSS SOUTHERN THAILAND, INVITED STATE AND DEFENSE OFFICIALS TO ATTEND REVIEW OF PRE- FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF KRA CANAL PROJECT. MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 10-12 IN TOKYO.

2. WE HAVE POLITELY BUT FIRMLY DECLINED DOWNEY' S INVITATION AND ARE TAKING STEPS TO SEE THAT DEFENSE DOES ALSO. EMBASSY TOKYO SHOULD DO LIKEWISE IF INVITED DIRECTLY.

3. REASON FOR OUR STANCE IS THAT THERE ARE STRONG PROPONENTS AND OPPONENTS OF CANAL SCHEME WITHIN THAILAND
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PAGE 02 STATE 127806

AND ABROAD AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF PROJECT HIGHLY
DOUBTFUL. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE ADHERING CLOSELY
TO POLICY OF NEITHER ENCOURAGING NOR DISCOURAGING CANAL
PROJECT AND OF AVOIDING ANY FORM OF USG INVOLVEMENT.

4. FYI. LAWRENCE LIVERMORE LABORATORIES DEPUTY DIRECTOR
EDWARD TELLER ALSO INVITED TO ATTEND TOKYO REVIEW MEETING.
BECAUSE OF HIS OUTSPOKEN ADVOCACY OF NUCLEAR EXCAVATION
TECHNIQUES (WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO OUR LIMITED TEST BAN

TREATY COMMITMENTS), WE HOPE HE WILL BE UNABLE TO
PARTICIPATE. END FYI. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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